

This all began for me on the evening of February 17TH after hearing our Governor's announcement about taxing our pensions and reducing our homestead tax Credits. My heart fell to the pit of my stomach, I could not believe what I was hearing, I Just recently bought a house and I have a newer vehicle. I knew in that moment if this budget proposal passed I would lose my vehicle no doubt about it. And then I thought of all the other seniors in Michigan in the same boat as me and many of them have it worse off than I do. " it's not fair" The Governor's plan slaps more than \$1 billion in new taxes on seniors pensions and other income to give businesses a huge tax break! Now explain to me how do we call that a shared sacrifice? " It's not fair" Most of the seniors have lost some or all of their health care benefits and have higher co-pays . I myself have lost my dental and vision benefits I also have higher co-pays on office visits and medications that keep going up every year. Gas prices are skyrocketing groceries are more expensive to buy now. The many medications that most seniors have to take their co-pays will not cover all the costs and when they fall into a donut hole they have to pay full price for their medications. "It's Not Fair" My own mother cannot make ends meet now as it is and it's getting worse. My co-pays for medication used to be \$5. each, now they're up to \$25. or \$50. each or more. So now most seniors can't go anywhere as they cannot afford the gas such as me. They're not eating properly or they're going hungry because they cannot buy enough groceries. They're not taking their medications as required because they can't afford to buy them. I know I'm cutting back on many things and I know there are many more seniors out there cutting back just as much as I have If not even more than me. What part of fixed income does the Governor do not understand ? " it's not fair" We have no cost-of-living added to our pensions they stay the same every year. In short prices keep rising, costs keep going up with each passing year, we get deeper in the hole. So where do we make it up with a fixed income well we don't we do without. "

“ It's not fair” I have needed new dentures for over two years now I do not have \$3000 for a new set of dentures that are starting to crack and do not fit properly. Where is the money going to come from I guess I do without? I understand the concessions I had to take in regard to losing my dental and vision care but I agreed with that. Now the Governor wants to take away any possible extra income that I may receive towards some new dentures but instead he wants to pull the rug out from under us.

” It's not fair” I am the creator of “Michigan Seniors Protest Tax On Pensions”

Facebook page we held our rally on the 15TH of March. I chose March 15TH because it was the Ides of March it means to ” Beware” And “ To Be On Guard ”. My Facebook page has only been up since late February 17TH of this year and I have over 185,000 post views attributed to my site and 1500 active users. I knew it would only take one person to get the ball rolling, I knew I was capable of doing it, so I made it my mission and I took the challenge head-on. I wanted to inform as many Seniors as I could about what they could lose if they remained silent about the Governor's proposed budget. Now I am going to include the Lower Income People who will lose their “ Earned Income Tax Credit “ and the poor. They are the ones that I'm going to make sure they are informed and understand what they will be losing under the Governor's new budget proposal. I've been flying by the seat of my pants ever since. I am going to be like a dog with a bone and I am not going to let go. We “Seniors” and the “Lower Income People” in Michigan are out there and you will be hearing more from us I guarantee that ! In conclusion I want you to know that I am actively keeping the Seniors and all others in my all inclusive group up-to-date about every single thing that is going on up here in Lansing.

Mary Lee Woodward

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